

# DEPOT POND

## 2019 SAMPLING HIGHLIGHTS

Milton, NH



This report provides a water quality overview for data collected in Depot Pond, Site 2 Milton, between 1991 and 2019. Water quality data displayed in Tables 1, 2 and 3 are surface water measurements with the exception of the dissolved oxygen data that summarize conditions near the lake bottom.

**Blue** = Excellent =  
Oligotrophic

**Yellow** = Fair =  
Mesotrophic

**Red** = Poor =  
Eutrophic

**Gray** = No Data

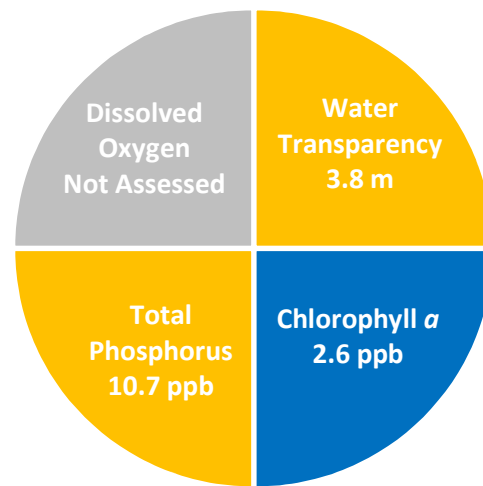


Figure 1. Depot Pond Water Quality (2019)

Table 1. 2019 Depot Pond Seasonal Averages and NH DES Aquatic Life Nutrient Criteria<sup>1</sup>

| Parameter                                  | Oligotrophic<br>"Excellent" | Mesotrophic<br>"Fair" | Eutrophic<br>"Poor" | Depot Pond<br>Average (range) | Depot Pond<br>Classification |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Water Clarity<br>(meters)                  | 4.0 – 7.0                   | 2.5 - 4.0             | < 2.5               | 3.8 meters (3.1 – 5.3)        | Mesotrophic                  |
| Chlorophyll <i>a</i> <sup>1</sup><br>(ppb) | < 3.3                       | > 3.3 – 5.0           | > 5.0 – 11.0        | 2.6 ppb (2.2 – 3.0)           | Oligotrophic                 |
| Total Phosphorus <sup>1</sup><br>(ppb)     | < 8.0                       | > 8.0 – 12.0          | > 12.0 – 28.0       | 10.7 ppb (9.0 – 13.1)         | Mesotrophic                  |
| Dissolved Oxygen<br>(mg/L)                 | 5.0 – 7.0                   | 2.0 – 5.0             | <2.0                | No Data                       | Not Assessed                 |

Table 2. 2019 Station Depot Pond Seasonal Average Accessory Water Quality Measurements

| Parameter                                 | Assessment Criteria                                                 |                                      |                                                          |                                                                                |                             | Depot Pond<br>Average (range)            | Depot Pond<br>Classification |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Color<br>(color units)                    | < 10<br>uncolored                                                   | 10 – 20<br>slightly<br>colored       | 20 – 40<br>lightly tea<br>colored                        | 40 – 80<br>tea<br>colored                                                      | > 80<br>highly<br>colored   | 32.6 color units<br>(range: 19.9 – 41.7) | Lightly tea colored          |
| Alkalinity<br>(mg/L)                      | < 0.0<br>acidified                                                  | 0.1 – 2.0<br>extremely<br>vulnerable | 2.1 – 10<br>moderately<br>vulnerable                     | 10.1 – 25.0<br>low<br>vulnerability                                            | > 25.0<br>not<br>vulnerable | 9.3 mg/L<br>(range: 8.2 – 11.0)          | Moderately<br>vulnerable     |
| pH<br>(Std units)                         | < 5.5<br>suboptimal for successful<br>growth and reproduction       |                                      | 6.5 – 9.0 optimal range for fish growth and reproduction |                                                                                |                             | No Data                                  | -----                        |
| Specific<br>Conductivity<br>( $\mu$ S/cm) | < 50 $\mu$ S/cm<br>Characteristic of minimally<br>impacted NH lakes |                                      | 50-100 $\mu$ S/cm<br>Lakes with some<br>human influence  | > 100 $\mu$ S/cm<br>Characteristic of lakes experiencing<br>human disturbances |                             | No Data                                  | -----                        |

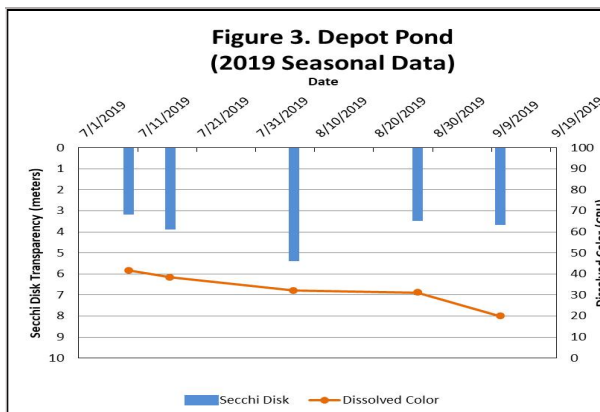
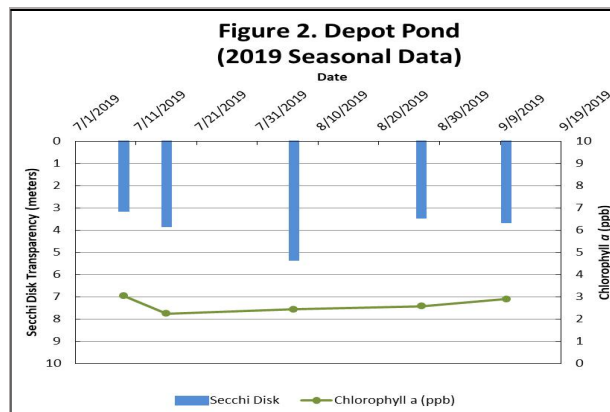


Figure 2 and 3. Seasonal Secchi disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* changes and dissolved color concentrations. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the interplay among Secchi Disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* and dissolved color. Shallower water transparency measurements oftentimes correspond to increases in chlorophyll *a* and/or color concentrations.

## LONG TERM TRENDS

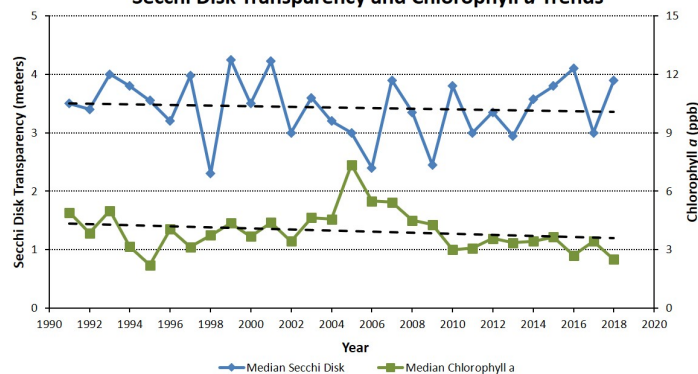
**WATER CLARITY:** The Depot Pond water clarity measurements, measured as Secchi Disk transparency, have oscillated among years while the long-term trend is relatively stable (Figure 4).

**CHLOROPHYLL:** The Depot Pond chlorophyll *a* concentrations, a measure of microscopic plant life within the lake, have oscillated among years while the long-term trend is relatively stable (Figure 4).

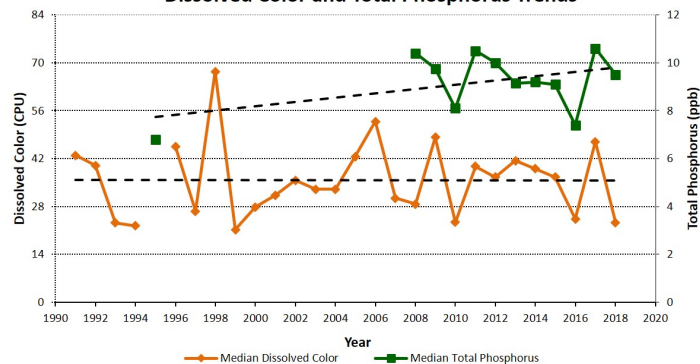
**TOTAL PHOSPHORUS:** Phosphorus is the nutrient most responsible for microscopic plant growth. The Depot Pond total phosphorus concentrations display a trend of increasing concentrations (Figure 5).

**COLOR:** The Depot Pond color data, the result of naturally occurring “tea” color substances from the breakdown of soils and plant materials, have oscillated among years while the long-term trend is relatively stable (Figure 5).

**Figure 4. Depot Pond (1991-2018)**  
Secchi Disk Transparency and Chlorophyll *a* Trends



**Figure 5. Depot Pond (1991-2018)**  
Dissolved Color and Total Phosphorus Trends



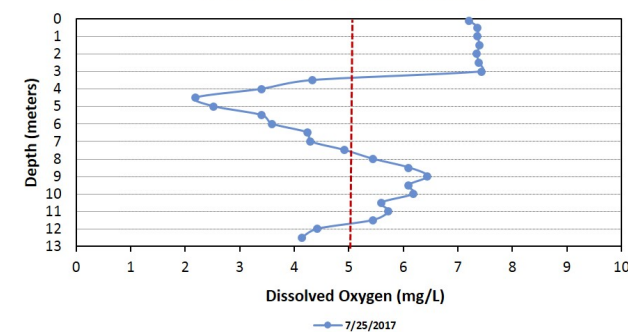
**Table 3. Milton Three Ponds Seasonal Average Water Quality Inter-Lake Comparison (2019)**

| Pond      | Average (range) Secchi Disk Depth (meters) | Average (range) Total Phosphorus (ppb) | Average (range) Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (ppb) | Average (range) Dissolved Color (CPU) |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Depot     | 3.8 m (3.1 – 5.3)                          | 10.7 ppb ( 9.0 – 13.1)                 | 2.6 ppb (2.2 – 3.0)                        | 32.6 CPU (19.9 – 41.7)                |
| Northeast | 2.9 m (2.5 – 3.2)                          | 14.3 ppb (12.2 – 16.5)                 | 3.4 ppb (2.8 – 3.7)                        | 42.2 CPU (30.8 – 55.9)                |
| Townhouse | 4.3 m (3.7 – 6.0)                          | 9.4 ppb ( 7.5 – 11.1)                  | 3.1 ppb (2.2 – 4.0)                        | 27.6 CPU (22.6 – 31.9)                |

Figures 4 and 5. Changes in the Depot Pond water clarity (Secchi Disk depth), chlorophyll *a*, dissolved color and total phosphorus concentrations measured between 1991 and 2019. **These data illustrate the relationship between plant growth, natural water color and water clarity. Total phosphorus data are also displayed and are oftentimes correlated with the amount of plant growth.** Long-term trends are based on the analysis of annual median values.

Figure 6. Depot Pond dissolved oxygen profile collected by the **Center for Freshwater Biology** on July 25, 2017. The vertical red line indicates the oxygen concentration commonly considered the threshold for successful growth and reproduction of cold water fish such as trout and salmon. The July 25, 2017 dissolved oxygen measurements are the most current data available.

**Figure 6. Depot Pond - Site 2 Milton**  
Dissolved Oxygen Profile (July 25, 2017)



## Recommendations:

Implement Best Management Practices within the Depot Pond watershed to minimize the adverse impacts of polluted runoff and erosion into the lake. Refer to “Landscaping at the Water’s Edge: An Ecological Approach” and “New Hampshire Homeowner’s Guide to Stormwater Management: Do-It-Yourself Stormwater Solutions for Your Home” for suggestions that can help reduce nutrient loading caused by overland run-off.

- [https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource004159\\_Rep5940.pdf](https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource004159_Rep5940.pdf)
- <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-11-11.pdf>



# Figure 7. Depot Pond

Milton, NH

2018 Deep water sampling site and average water clarity

Disclaimer: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to University files needed to update this image are limited. Thus, the 2018 map was used. The sampling locations, average depth, maximum depth and surface area are accurately depicted. However, the year and seasonal average water transparency have not been updated. Once full University resources become available this map will be updated.

The information in the first two pages of this report has been updated to reflect the 2019 conditions.

Average Depth = 18.0 feet  
Maximum Depth = 51.8 feet  
Surface Area = 165 acres

Depot Pond  
Secchi Disk Transparency = 12.5 feet

0 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles



Extension



Aerial Orthophoto Source: NH Granit  
Site location GPS coordinates collected by the UNH Center for Freshwater Biology